

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01377 231156Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----231157Z 004512/46

O R 231126Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4621

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1377

EXDIS

E O 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW GE US FR UR UK

SUBJ: ALLIED PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN: PRESS INQUIRIES

1. THE BRITISH MISSION HAS JUST SENT US THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ABOUT HOW THE FCO HAS HANDLED AND HOW IT PROPOSES FURTHER TO HANDLE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FLAG TOURS. THEIR MESSAGE WAS DATED MAY 21, BUT WE ONLY RECEIVED IT TODAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT THE FCO NEWS DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN ASKED TODAY BY DPA WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A SOVIET COMPLAINT ABOUT ALLIED PATROLS AND WHETHER THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AT THE FOUR POWER SUMMIT ON BERLIN ON 9 MAY. THEY HAVE TAKEN THE LINE RECOMMENDED IN THE BONN GROUP (I.E., QUOTE IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO COMMENT ON RUMOURS OF THIS SORT UNQUOTE) BUT ANTICIPATE FURTHER QUESTIONS OVER THE WEEKEND.

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3. IF QUESTIONED, THEY PROPOSE TO SAY ON THE RECORD: QUOTE WE CANNOT COMMENT ON RUMOURS ABOUT EXCHANGES WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON BERLIN. THE ATTITUDE OF THE FOUR WESTERN ALLIES ON BERLIN WAS CLEARLY STATED IN THE DECLARATION OF THE FOUR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 9 MAY. ALL ASPECTS OF THE BERLIN SITUATION WERE OF COURSE TAKEN

INTO CONSIDERATION AT THE MEETING ON 9 MAY. ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY. UK, US AND FRENCH MILITARY PATROLS CONTINUE TO MOVE FREELY INTO AND THROUGH EAST BERLIN, JUST AS SOVIET SERVICEMEN PERFORM CERTAIN DUTIES IN THE WESTERN SECTORS. THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERRUPTION OF THIS TRAFFIC. UNQUOTE.

4. IF PRESSED, THEY WILL SAY UNATTRIBUTABLY:

QUOTE AS YOU WILL KNOW, THERE HAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEEN A RUNNING DEBATE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, INITIATED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE GDR, ABOUT WHAT IS USUALLY CALLED THE STATUS OF BERLIN. AS FAR AS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS NOT SO MUCH STATUS AS THE EXERCISE OF QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WHOLE OF BERLIN AND THE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. AS I HAVE SAID, ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXERCISED IN THE CUSTOMARY WAY. THIS MATTERS MORE THAN THE VARIOUS CLAIMS MADE IN THE DEBATE ABOUT STATUS. UNQUOTE. END TEXT.

5. WE ARE EXPRESSING OUR DISMAY TO THE BRITISH MISSION, BECAUSE THE LINE GOES MUCH FURTHER THAN THAT CONTEMPLATED BY THE BONN GROUP, AND ITS UNILATERAL USE WILL CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE OTHER ALLIES. ANY REMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, MAY BE TOO LATE.

6. THE HIBBERT LINE RE STATUS VS. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY  
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BILITIES EMERGES ABOVE IN ITS MOST UNDILUTED FORM.GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009